

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please CANCEL claims 2, 3 and 15 and AMEND claims 1, 4-9, 12-14 and 16-17 in accordance with the following:

1. (Currently Amended) A password input table creating method for creating a password input table referred to when inputting a password in a computer, the method comprising the steps of:

displaying on a display a creation table having multiple entry fields each of which is to be an input area for one character;

entering, in the entry field of the creation table, each of characters composing a password to be inputted into the computer through an interactive process;

creating a password input table by randomly entering possible characters to be used for a password in entry fields of the creation table which have no character inputted therein; and outputting the created password input table,

wherein the creating first enters, in the entry fields of the creation table which have no character inputted therein, characters selected from characters left after deleting characters of the entered password characters from possible characters to be used for a password, and then enters, in the remaining entry fields which have no character inputted therein, characters selected from all the possible characters to be used for a password, and

wherein the displaying displays, as the creation table, a creation table having more entry fields than the sum of the number of characters used for the password to be processed and the number of characters left after deleting the characters used for the password to be processed from the possible characters to be used for a password.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Cancelled).

4. (Currently Amended) The password input table creating method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the displaying step displays, as the creation table, a creation table on which a predetermined image is presented.

5. (Currently Amended) The password input table creating method according to claim [[4]]1, further comprising:

~~a step of changing one or more of size, shading, color attribute and arrangement location of the image presented on the creation table through an interactive process.~~

6. (Currently Amended) The password input table creating method according to claim [[4]]1, further comprising:

~~a step of displaying a list of images presentable on the creation table for selection of an image to be presented on the creation table through an interactive process.~~

7. (Currently Amended) The password input table creating method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the displaying step displays, as the creation table, a creation table which expressly presents one or more entry-inhibited fields for which entry of a character is inhibited.

8. (Currently Amended) The password input table creating method according to claim 7, further comprising:

~~a step of setting any field included in the entry fields as the entry-inhibited field through an interactive process.~~

9. (Currently Amended) A password input table creating apparatus for creating a password input table referred to when inputting a password into a computer, the apparatus comprising:

means for displaying on a display a creation table having multiple entry fields each of which is to be an input area for one character;

means for entering, in the entry field of the creation table, each of characters composing a password to be inputted into the computer through an interactive process;

means for creating a password input table by randomly entering possible characters to be used for a password in entry fields of the creation table which have no character inputted therein; and

means for outputting the created password input table,

wherein the means for creating first enters, in the entry fields of the creation table which have no character inputted therein, characters selected from characters left after deleting characters of the entered password characters from possible characters to be used for a password, and then enters, in the remaining entry fields which have no character inputted therein, characters selected from all the possible characters to be used for a password, and

wherein the means for displaying displays, as the creation table, a creation table having more entry fields than the sum of the number of characters used for the password to be processed and the number of characters left after deleting the characters used for the password to be processed from the possible characters to be used for a password.

10. (Previously Presented) The password input table creating apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the displaying means displays, as the creation table, a creation table on which a predetermined image is presented.

11. (Previously Presented) The password input table creating apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the displaying means displays, as the creation table, a creation table which expressly presents one or more entry-inhibited fields for which entry of a character is inhibited.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~A password input table creating computer readable storage medium storing a program~~ used to implement a password input table creating method for creating a password input table referred to when inputting a password into a computer; wherein the password input table creating program causes a computer to perform:

displaying on a display a creation table having multiple entry fields each of which is to be an input area for one character;

entering, in the entry field of the creation table, each of characters composing a password to be inputted into the computer through an interactive process;

creating a password input table by randomly entering possible characters to be used for a password in entry fields of the creation table which have no character inputted therein; and

outputting the created password input table;

wherein the creating first enters, in the entry fields of the creation table which have no character inputted therein, characters selected from characters left after deleting characters of the entered password characters from possible characters to be used for a password, and then enters, in the remaining entry fields which have no character inputted therein, characters selected from all the possible characters to be used for a password, and

wherein the displaying displays, as the creation table, a creation table having more entry fields than the sum of the number of characters used for the password to be processed and the number of characters left after deleting the characters used for the password to be processed from the possible characters to be used for a password.

13. (Currently Amended) The ~~password input table creating program~~computer readable storage medium according to claim 12, wherein the displaying ~~process~~ displays, as the creation table, a creation table on which a predetermined image is presented.

14. (Currently Amended) The ~~password input table creating program~~computer readable storage medium according to claim 12, wherein the displaying ~~process~~ displays, as the creation table, a creation table which expressly presents one or more entry-inhibited fields for which entry of a character is inhibited.

15. (Cancelled).

16. (Currently Amended) The password input table creating method according to claim 5, further comprising:

~~a step of~~ displaying a list of images presentable on the creation table for selection of an image to be presented on the creation table through an interactive process.

17. (Currently Amended) The password input table creating method according to claim 31, wherein the displaying ~~step~~ displays, as the creation table, a creation table which expressly presents one or more entry-inhibited fields for which entry of a character is inhibited.